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Letter dated 14 May 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit the attached letter, dated 9 May 2014, from Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, conveying the quarterly report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 January to 31 March 2014 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

14-54108 (E) 290514

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Annex

Letter dated 9 May 2014 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach a report on the operations of the Kosovo Force covering the period from 1 January to 31 March 2014 (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making this report available to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Anders Fogh **Rasmussen**

Enclosure

Report to the United Nations on Kosovo Force operations

1. This report on the Kosovo Force (KFOR) is provided in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and covers the period from 1 January to 31 March 2014.

2. As at 31 March 2014, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre remained approximately 4,800.

3. Notable events during the reporting period included the integration of Serb security structures into the Kosovo Police, the mayoral re-election held in North Mitrovica on 23 February 2014 and the Serbian parliamentary elections held on 16 March 2014. In addition, the European Union formally opened accession talks with Serbia on 21 January 2014.

Security situation and operations

4. The security situation for this reporting period remained calm and stable south of the Ibar River and reasonably stable but fragile in the northern part of Kosovo. The implementation of the European Union-facilitated agreement of 19 April 2013 on the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina continues to positively influence the overall security environment. As part of the comprehensive international effort, KFOR continues to provide a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement throughout Kosovo.

5. On 6 January 2014, the day before Serbian Orthodox Christmas, two buses carrying internally displaced Kosovo Serbs were stoned as they attempted to reach a Serbian Orthodox Church in Gjakovë/Djakovica. The incident did not result in any injuries, and four demonstrators were arrested. Dimitrije Janićijević, a Kosovo Serb member of the North Mitrovica municipal assembly, was assassinated on 16 January 2014. The arrest and detention on 27 January 2014 of Oliver Ivanović, a Kosovo Serb contender for the mayoralty of North Mitrovica, also raised tensions. One other notable incident was a prison break in Zubin Potok on 12 March 2014, which resulted in a Kosovo Serb escaping custody. However, apart from increased rhetoric, none of these incidents generated any unrest.

6. During the reporting period, three small-scale explosions (resulting in material damages only) and two shooting incidents were reported. The first shooting occurred on 21 March 2014 in the municipality of Peja/Peć, where two Kosovo Albanians were killed and six others injured in a drive-by attack. The second shooting took place on 31 March 2014 in the vicinity of DOG 31 and resulted in three Kosovo Border and Boundary Police patrol officers injured. Both shootings were likely linked to organized crime rather than ethnic motivations.

7. Several public protests also took place during the reporting period, mostly related to socioeconomic concerns. Kosovo Albanians peacefully demonstrated on 28 February 2014, opposing the resolution of the Dečani Monastery property dispute. Several hundred protesters gathered in Prizren on 19 March 2014, calling for the resignation of the city's mayor, who had been convicted of abuse of official authority and misuse of public funds six days earlier.

8. The refusal of North Mitrovica's mayor-elect to accept his mandate in accordance with the process required by Pristina resulted in a decision by Pristina's Central Elections Commission to hold repeated municipal elections in the city on 23 February 2014. On election day, KFOR (as third responder), in coordination with the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and the Kosovo Police, stood ready to provide immediate intervention if required. The election passed peacefully, without any need for intervention by KFOR.

9. Serbian parliamentary elections were held on 16 March 2014. In Kosovo, the process was facilitated by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, in line with the European Union-facilitated agreement of 19 April 2013 on the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina. KFOR supported the elections in a similar way as with the North Mitrovica revote: as third responder and in close coordination with all local and international security actors. KFOR also maintained full situational awareness in all municipalities south of the Ibar River through an established system of patrols and reaction forces. The vote took place without any security incidents, and no intervention by KFOR was required.

10. The integration of former Serbian Ministry of Interior Police officers into Kosovo Police structures was completed successfully on 14 February 2014. The process, which began in December 2013, resulted in 284 former Ministry officers commissioned as Kosovo Police officers and posted to duty stations in the four Serb-majority municipalities in the northern part of Kosovo. This process has increased the presence of the Kosovo Police, which now has approximately 400 officers in the northern part of Kosovo.

Summary

11. During the reporting period, KFOR, in its role as third responder, contributed to maintaining both a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement in close coordination with EULEX and the Kosovo Police. The close coordination on the ground between KFOR, EULEX and the Kosovo Police remains highly effective. Coordinated support for the recent elections demonstrated the ability of these three actors to monitor the security situation closely, maintain an appropriate deterrent posture and react quickly to incidents, as necessary.